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SENATE BILL NO. 673

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health  
on January 18, 2018)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Deeds)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.2-340 and 37.2-808 of the Code of Virginia, relating to emergency custody orders; extension.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 16.2-340 and 37.2-808 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 16.1-340. Emergency custody; issuance and execution of order.

A. Any magistrate shall issue, upon the sworn petition of a minor's treating physician or parent or, if the parent is not available or is unable or unwilling to file a petition, by any responsible adult, including the person having custody over a minor in detention or shelter care pursuant to an order of a juvenile and domestic relations district court, or upon his own motion, an emergency custody order when he has probable cause to believe that (i) because of mental illness, the minor (a) presents a serious danger to himself or others to the extent that severe or irremediable injury is likely to result, as evidenced by recent acts or threats, or (b) is experiencing a serious deterioration of his ability to care for himself in a developmentally age-appropriate manner, as evidenced by delusory thinking or by a significant impairment of functioning in hydration, nutrition, self-protection, or self-control; and (ii) the minor is in need of compulsory treatment for a mental illness and is reasonably likely to benefit from the proposed treatment. Any emergency custody order entered pursuant to this section shall provide for the disclosure of medical records pursuant to subsection B of § 16.1-337. This subsection shall not preclude any other disclosures as required or permitted by law. To the extent possible, the petition shall contain the information required by § 16.1-339.1.

When considering whether there is probable cause to issue an emergency custody order, the magistrate may, in addition to the petition, consider (1) the recommendations of any treating or examining physician or psychologist licensed in Virginia, if available, (2) any past actions of the minor, (3) any past mental health treatment of the minor, (4) any relevant hearsay evidence, (5) any medical records available, (6) any affidavits submitted, if the witness is unavailable and it so states in the affidavit, and (7) any other information available that the magistrate considers relevant to the determination of whether probable cause exists to issue an emergency custody order.

B. Any minor for whom an emergency custody order is issued shall be taken into custody and transported to a convenient location to be evaluated to determine whether he meets the criteria for temporary detention pursuant to § 16.1-340.1 and to assess the need for hospitalization or treatment. The evaluation shall be made by a person designated by the community services board serving the area in which the minor is located who is skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and who has completed a certification program approved by the Department.

C. The magistrate issuing an emergency custody order shall specify the primary law-enforcement agency and jurisdiction to execute the emergency custody order and provide transportation. However, the magistrate may authorize transportation by an alternative transportation provider, including a parent, family member, or friend of the minor who is the subject of the order, a representative of the community services board, or other transportation provider with personnel trained to provide transportation in a safe manner, upon determining, following consideration of information provided by the petitioner; the community services board or its designee; the local law-enforcement agency, if any; the minor's treating physician, if any; or other persons who are available and have knowledge of the minor, and, when the magistrate deems appropriate, the proposed alternative transportation provider, either in person or via two-way electronic video and audio or telephone communication system, that the proposed alternative transportation provider is available to provide transportation, willing to provide transportation, and able to provide transportation in a safe manner. When transportation is ordered to be provided by an alternative transportation provider, the magistrate shall order the specified primary law-enforcement agency to execute the order, to take the minor into custody, and to transfer custody of the minor to the alternative transportation provider identified in the order. In such cases, a copy of the emergency custody order shall accompany the minor being transported pursuant to this section at all times and shall be delivered by the alternative transportation provider to the community services board or its designee responsible for conducting the evaluation. The community services board or its designee conducting the evaluation shall return a copy of the emergency custody order to the court designated by the magistrate as soon as is practicable. Delivery of an order to a law-enforcement officer or alternative transportation provider and return of an order to the court may be accomplished electronically or by facsimile.

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60 Transportation under this section shall include transportation to a medical facility as may be  
61 necessary to obtain emergency medical evaluation or treatment that shall be conducted immediately in  
62 accordance with state and federal law. Transportation under this section shall include transportation to a  
63 medical facility for a medical evaluation if a physician at the hospital in which the minor subject to the  
64 emergency custody order may be detained requires a medical evaluation prior to admission.

65 D. In specifying the primary law-enforcement agency and jurisdiction for purposes of this section,  
66 the magistrate shall order the primary law-enforcement agency from the jurisdiction served by the  
67 community services board that designated the person to perform the evaluation required in subsection B  
68 to execute the order and, in cases in which transportation is ordered to be provided by the primary  
69 law-enforcement agency, provide transportation. If the community services board serves more than one  
70 jurisdiction, the magistrate shall designate the primary law-enforcement agency from the particular  
71 jurisdiction within the community services board's service area where the minor who is the subject of  
72 the emergency custody order was taken into custody or, if the minor has not yet been taken into  
73 custody, the primary law-enforcement agency from the jurisdiction where the minor is presently located  
74 to execute the order and provide transportation.

75 E. The law-enforcement agency or alternative transportation provider providing transportation  
76 pursuant to this section may transfer custody of the minor to the facility or location to which the minor  
77 is transported for the evaluation required in subsection B, G, or H if the facility or location (i) is  
78 licensed to provide the level of security necessary to protect both the minor and others from harm, (ii) is  
79 actually capable of providing the level of security necessary to protect the minor and others from harm,  
80 and (iii) in cases in which transportation is provided by a law-enforcement agency, has entered into an  
81 agreement or memorandum of understanding with the law-enforcement agency setting forth the terms  
82 and conditions under which it will accept a transfer of custody, provided, however, that the facility or  
83 location may not require the law-enforcement agency to pay any fees or costs for the transfer of  
84 custody.

85 F. A law-enforcement officer may lawfully go or be sent beyond the territorial limits of the county,  
86 city, or town in which he serves to any point in the Commonwealth for the purpose of executing an  
87 emergency custody order pursuant to this section.

88 G. A law-enforcement officer who, based upon his observation or the reliable reports of others, has  
89 probable cause to believe that a minor meets the criteria for emergency custody as stated in this section  
90 may take that minor into custody and transport that minor to an appropriate location to assess the need  
91 for hospitalization or treatment without prior authorization. A law-enforcement officer who takes a  
92 person into custody pursuant to this subsection or subsection H may lawfully go or be sent beyond the  
93 territorial limits of the county, city, or town in which he serves to any point in the Commonwealth for  
94 the purpose of obtaining the assessment. Such evaluation shall be conducted immediately. The period of  
95 custody shall not exceed eight hours from the time the law-enforcement officer takes the minor into  
96 custody.

97 H. A law-enforcement officer who is transporting a minor who has voluntarily consented to be  
98 transported to a facility for the purpose of assessment or evaluation and who is beyond the territorial  
99 limits of the county, city, or town in which he serves may take such minor into custody and transport  
100 him to an appropriate location to assess the need for hospitalization or treatment without prior  
101 authorization when the law-enforcement officer determines (i) that the minor has revoked consent to be  
102 transported to a facility for the purpose of assessment or evaluation and (ii) based upon his observations,  
103 that probable cause exists to believe that the minor meets the criteria for emergency custody as stated in  
104 this section. The period of custody shall not exceed eight hours from the time the law-enforcement  
105 officer takes the minor into custody.

106 I. A representative of the primary law-enforcement agency specified to execute an emergency custody  
107 order or a representative of the law-enforcement agency employing a law-enforcement officer who takes  
108 a person into custody pursuant to subsection G or H shall notify the community services board  
109 responsible for conducting the evaluation required in subsection B, G, or H as soon as practicable after  
110 execution of the emergency custody order or after the person has been taken into custody pursuant to  
111 subsection G or H.

112 J. Nothing herein shall preclude a law-enforcement officer or alternative transportation provider from  
113 obtaining emergency medical treatment or further medical evaluation at any time for a minor in his  
114 custody as provided in this section.

115 K. The minor shall remain in custody until a temporary detention order is issued, until the minor is  
116 released, or until the emergency custody order expires. An emergency custody order shall be valid for a  
117 period not to exceed eight hours from the time of execution.

118 L. If an emergency custody order is not executed within eight hours of its issuance, the order shall  
119 be void and shall be returned unexecuted to the office of the clerk of the issuing court or, if such office  
120 is not open, to any magistrate serving the jurisdiction of the issuing court.

121 M. ~~Expired.~~ *In addition to the eight-hour period of emergency custody set forth in subsection G, H,*

122 or K, if the minor is detained in a state facility pursuant to subsection D of § 16.1-340.1, the state  
123 facility and an employee or designee of the community services board may, for an additional four hours,  
124 continue to attempt to identify an alternative facility that is able and willing to provide temporary  
125 detention and appropriate care to the minor.

126 N. Payments shall be made pursuant to § 37.2-804 to licensed health care providers for medical  
127 screening and assessment services provided to minors with mental illnesses while in emergency custody.

128 O. No person who provides alternative transportation pursuant to this section shall be liable to the  
129 person being transported for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions that result  
130 from providing such alternative transportation.

131 **§ 37.2-808. Emergency custody; issuance and execution of order.**

132 A. Any magistrate shall issue, upon the sworn petition of any responsible person, treating physician,  
133 or upon his own motion, an emergency custody order when he has probable cause to believe that any  
134 person (i) has a mental illness and that there exists a substantial likelihood that, as a result of mental  
135 illness, the person will, in the near future, (a) cause serious physical harm to himself or others as  
136 evidenced by recent behavior causing, attempting, or threatening harm and other relevant information, if  
137 any, or (b) suffer serious harm due to his lack of capacity to protect himself from harm or to provide  
138 for his basic human needs, (ii) is in need of hospitalization or treatment, and (iii) is unwilling to  
139 volunteer or incapable of volunteering for hospitalization or treatment. Any emergency custody order  
140 entered pursuant to this section shall provide for the disclosure of medical records pursuant to  
141 § 37.2-804.2. This subsection shall not preclude any other disclosures as required or permitted by law.

142 When considering whether there is probable cause to issue an emergency custody order, the  
143 magistrate may, in addition to the petition, consider (1) the recommendations of any treating or  
144 examining physician or psychologist licensed in Virginia, if available, (2) any past actions of the person,  
145 (3) any past mental health treatment of the person, (4) any relevant hearsay evidence, (5) any medical  
146 records available, (6) any affidavits submitted, if the witness is unavailable and it so states in the  
147 affidavit, and (7) any other information available that the magistrate considers relevant to the  
148 determination of whether probable cause exists to issue an emergency custody order.

149 B. Any person for whom an emergency custody order is issued shall be taken into custody and  
150 transported to a convenient location to be evaluated to determine whether the person meets the criteria  
151 for temporary detention pursuant to § 37.2-809 and to assess the need for hospitalization or treatment.  
152 The evaluation shall be made by a person designated by the community services board who is skilled in  
153 the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and who has completed a certification program approved  
154 by the Department.

155 C. The magistrate issuing an emergency custody order shall specify the primary law-enforcement  
156 agency and jurisdiction to execute the emergency custody order and provide transportation. However, the  
157 magistrate shall consider any request to authorize transportation by an alternative transportation provider  
158 in accordance with this section, whenever an alternative transportation provider is identified to the  
159 magistrate, which may be a person, facility, or agency, including a family member or friend of the  
160 person who is the subject of the order, a representative of the community services board, or other  
161 transportation provider with personnel trained to provide transportation in a safe manner, upon  
162 determining, following consideration of information provided by the petitioner; the community services  
163 board or its designee; the local law-enforcement agency, if any; the person's treating physician, if any;  
164 or other persons who are available and have knowledge of the person, and, when the magistrate deems  
165 appropriate, the proposed alternative transportation provider, either in person or via two-way electronic  
166 video and audio or telephone communication system, that the proposed alternative transportation  
167 provider is available to provide transportation, willing to provide transportation, and able to provide  
168 transportation in a safe manner. When transportation is ordered to be provided by an alternative  
169 transportation provider, the magistrate shall order the specified primary law-enforcement agency to  
170 execute the order, to take the person into custody, and to transfer custody of the person to the  
171 alternative transportation provider identified in the order. In such cases, a copy of the emergency  
172 custody order shall accompany the person being transported pursuant to this section at all times and  
173 shall be delivered by the alternative transportation provider to the community services board or its  
174 designee responsible for conducting the evaluation. The community services board or its designee  
175 conducting the evaluation shall return a copy of the emergency custody order to the court designated by  
176 the magistrate as soon as is practicable. Delivery of an order to a law-enforcement officer or alternative  
177 transportation provider and return of an order to the court may be accomplished electronically or by  
178 facsimile.

179 Transportation under this section shall include transportation to a medical facility as may be  
180 necessary to obtain emergency medical evaluation or treatment that shall be conducted immediately in  
181 accordance with state and federal law. Transportation under this section shall include transportation to a  
182 medical facility for a medical evaluation if a physician at the hospital in which the person subject to the

183 emergency custody order may be detained requires a medical evaluation prior to admission.

184 D. In specifying the primary law-enforcement agency and jurisdiction for purposes of this section,  
185 the magistrate shall order the primary law-enforcement agency from the jurisdiction served by the  
186 community services board that designated the person to perform the evaluation required in subsection B  
187 to execute the order and, in cases in which transportation is ordered to be provided by the primary  
188 law-enforcement agency, provide transportation. If the community services board serves more than one  
189 jurisdiction, the magistrate shall designate the primary law-enforcement agency from the particular  
190 jurisdiction within the community services board's service area where the person who is the subject of  
191 the emergency custody order was taken into custody or, if the person has not yet been taken into  
192 custody, the primary law-enforcement agency from the jurisdiction where the person is presently located  
193 to execute the order and provide transportation.

194 E. The law-enforcement agency or alternative transportation provider providing transportation  
195 pursuant to this section may transfer custody of the person to the facility or location to which the person  
196 is transported for the evaluation required in subsection B, G, or H if the facility or location (i) is  
197 licensed to provide the level of security necessary to protect both the person and others from harm, (ii)  
198 is actually capable of providing the level of security necessary to protect the person and others from  
199 harm, and (iii) in cases in which transportation is provided by a law-enforcement agency, has entered  
200 into an agreement or memorandum of understanding with the law-enforcement agency setting forth the  
201 terms and conditions under which it will accept a transfer of custody, provided, however, that the  
202 facility or location may not require the law-enforcement agency to pay any fees or costs for the transfer  
203 of custody.

204 F. A law-enforcement officer may lawfully go or be sent beyond the territorial limits of the county,  
205 city, or town in which he serves to any point in the Commonwealth for the purpose of executing an  
206 emergency custody order pursuant to this section.

207 G. A law-enforcement officer who, based upon his observation or the reliable reports of others, has  
208 probable cause to believe that a person meets the criteria for emergency custody as stated in this section  
209 may take that person into custody and transport that person to an appropriate location to assess the need  
210 for hospitalization or treatment without prior authorization. A law-enforcement officer who takes a  
211 person into custody pursuant to this subsection or subsection H may lawfully go or be sent beyond the  
212 territorial limits of the county, city, or town in which he serves to any point in the Commonwealth for  
213 the purpose of obtaining the assessment. Such evaluation shall be conducted immediately. The period of  
214 custody shall not exceed eight hours from the time the law-enforcement officer takes the person into  
215 custody.

216 H. A law-enforcement officer who is transporting a person who has voluntarily consented to be  
217 transported to a facility for the purpose of assessment or evaluation and who is beyond the territorial  
218 limits of the county, city, or town in which he serves may take such person into custody and transport  
219 him to an appropriate location to assess the need for hospitalization or treatment without prior  
220 authorization when the law-enforcement officer determines (i) that the person has revoked consent to be  
221 transported to a facility for the purpose of assessment or evaluation, and (ii) based upon his  
222 observations, that probable cause exists to believe that the person meets the criteria for emergency  
223 custody as stated in this section. The period of custody shall not exceed eight hours from the time the  
224 law-enforcement officer takes the person into custody.

225 I. Nothing herein shall preclude a law-enforcement officer or alternative transportation provider from  
226 obtaining emergency medical treatment or further medical evaluation at any time for a person in his  
227 custody as provided in this section.

228 J. A representative of the primary law-enforcement agency specified to execute an emergency  
229 custody order or a representative of the law-enforcement agency employing a law-enforcement officer  
230 who takes a person into custody pursuant to subsection G or H shall notify the community services  
231 board responsible for conducting the evaluation required in subsection B, G, or H as soon as practicable  
232 after execution of the emergency custody order or after the person has been taken into custody pursuant  
233 to subsection G or H.

234 K. The person shall remain in custody until a temporary detention order is issued, until the person is  
235 released, or until the emergency custody order expires. An emergency custody order shall be valid for a  
236 period not to exceed eight hours from the time of execution.

237 L. Nothing in this section shall preclude the issuance of an order for temporary detention for testing,  
238 observation, or treatment pursuant to § 37.2-1104 for a person who is also the subject of an emergency  
239 custody order issued pursuant to this section. In any case in which an order for temporary detention for  
240 testing, observation, or treatment is issued for a person who is also the subject of an emergency custody  
241 order, the person may be detained by a hospital emergency room or other appropriate facility for testing,  
242 observation, and treatment for a period not to exceed 24 hours, unless extended by the court as part of  
243 an order pursuant to § 37.2-1101, in accordance with subsection A of § 37.2-1104. Upon completion of  
244 testing, observation, or treatment pursuant to § 37.2-1104, the hospital emergency room or other

245 appropriate facility in which the person is detained shall notify the nearest community services board,  
246 and the designee of the community services board shall, as soon as is practicable and prior to the  
247 expiration of the order for temporary detention issued pursuant to § 37.2-1104, conduct an evaluation of  
248 the person to determine if he meets the criteria for temporary detention pursuant to § 37.2-809.

249 M. Any person taken into emergency custody pursuant to this section shall be given a written  
250 summary of the emergency custody procedures and the statutory protections associated with those  
251 procedures.

252 N. If an emergency custody order is not executed within eight hours of its issuance, the order shall  
253 be void and shall be returned unexecuted to the office of the clerk of the issuing court or, if such office  
254 is not open, to any magistrate serving the jurisdiction of the issuing court.

255 O. ~~Expired.~~ *In addition to the eight-hour period of emergency custody set forth in subsection G, H,*  
256 *or K, if the individual is detained in a state facility pursuant to subsection E of § 37.2-809, the state*  
257 *facility and an employee or designee of the community services board as defined in § 37.2-809 may, for*  
258 *an additional four hours, continue to attempt to identify an alternative facility that is able and willing to*  
259 *provide temporary detention and appropriate care to the individual.*

260 P. Payments shall be made pursuant to § 37.2-804 to licensed health care providers for medical  
261 screening and assessment services provided to persons with mental illnesses while in emergency custody.

262 Q. No person who provides alternative transportation pursuant to this section shall be liable to the  
263 person being transported for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions that result  
264 from providing such alternative transportation.